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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7364**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 614

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 15, 2013

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Sportsmen's Benevolence Account.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Steele

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**     **GENERAL**  
                          **X DEDICATED**  
                          **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to adopt rules providing for approved food assistance providers and approved meat processors to provide food from donations of wild game to feed the state's hungry.

The bill requires the DNR to establish a grant process to compensate meat processors for processing wild game so that meat may be donated to certain nonprofit entities.

The bill requires the DNR to collect \$1 toward grants for the processing of wild game when a hunting license is sold, and requires the revenue to be deposited in the Indiana Sportsmen's Benevolence account. (Current law allows for a voluntary donation of \$1 when a hunting license is sold to be deposited in the Indiana Sportsmen's Benevolence account.)

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2013.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The bill requires the DNR to establish a grant process associated with offsetting the costs of processing donations of harvested game. DNR has reported that there is currently a small grant program in place and that depending on the program requirements, the Department should be capable of administering the additional funds. Currently, the statute requires that the expenses of administering the account are to be paid from the account.

The bill provides that a grantee ( a food assistance provider certified by the DNR) is required to track specific data, including: (1) information concerning the harvesting hunter; (2) the food assistance provider that will be

distributing the donated meat; (3) any other food assistance provider that helped coordinate the distribution; (4) the meat processor reimbursed by the hunter for processing the meat; (5) the cost of the processing; and (6) the net weight of the meat delivered to the food assistance provider. Additionally, the grantee is to track the county of harvest, processing, and distribution, as well as any other information that allows for accurate tracking of the activities.

DNR is required to develop a formula for the distribution of grants to eligible food assistance providers. The grant process is required to include the preparation of a budget for meat processing costs for anticipated donations of game animals. The DNR is then required to certify the budgeted information on the grant application and determine what amount of funding would be available to applicant organizations. The bill also provides that the food assistance providers must submit any information requested, including an audit of the funds expended to the DNR or the State Board of Accounts. Grant distributions are to be done in August of each year.

**Background Information:** DNR currently has a process to distribute funds donated to food pantries and to Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH) - a national voluntary organization that has established a network to receive donated game animals for the purpose of feeding the hungry. FHFH uses donations from churches, clubs, businesses, and individuals to cover the costs of processing, packaging, and freezing the meat which is then available for pickup by a nearby food bank or feeding program. Additionally, the DNR web site includes the GiveIN program which matches hunters who have the opportunity to harvest additional deer with people in need of venison to feed their families. The program is free and allows people to search for persons in their locality that are offering or requesting venison. The meat must be gifted - not bartered, traded, or sold, and all arrangements are made between the participating parties.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** The bill requires DNR to collect a \$1 fee for each hunting license sold. DNR sold 201,378 hunting licenses in CY 2012, which would result in approximately \$200,000 additional revenue annually for the Sportsman's Benevolence account. Currently, the Sportsman's Benevolence account revenue consists of donations and the proceeds from the sale of sportsman's benevolence pins. Historical revenue to the account is shown below.

Year	Revenue
FY 2010	\$ 14,718
FY 2011	\$ 17,281
FY 2012	\$ 6,281

Currently, the Sportsman's Benevolence account is established within the fund for the DNR Division of Law Enforcement. The Division of Law enforcement receives operating funds from the General Fund and from the Fish and Wildlife Fund.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** DNR.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** DNR; “Indiana Handbook of Taxes, Revenues, and Appropriations”, Fiscal Year 2012, Indiana Legislative Services Agency, Office of Fiscal and Management Analysis; Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry at <http://www.fhfh.org/Home.asp> ; and the GiveIN Game program at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/7240.htm>

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